

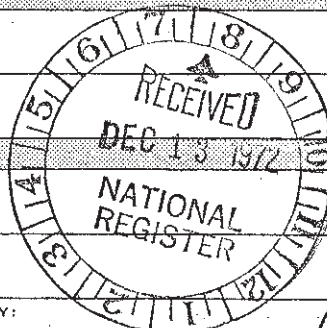
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

FINAL

STATE: HABS No. IND-63	
INDIANA	
COUNTY:	
Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 21 1973

1. NAME			
COMMON: The Athenaeum			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Das Deutsche Haus			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 401 East Michigan Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis			
STATE: Indiana	CODE IN-18	COUNTY: Marion	CODE 097



3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Private Club

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: The Athenaeum Turners Inc., (formerly the Socialer Turnverein Stock Association)			
STREET AND NUMBER: 401 East Michigan Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	STATE: Indianapolis	CODE IN-18	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City-County Building			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	STATE: Indiana	CODE IN-18	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey - Indianapolis			
DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1970 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic American Buildings Survey Collection, Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D. C.	STATE: D. C.	CODE DC-11	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: INDIANA	COUNTY: Marion	ENTRY NUMBER FEB 21 1973	DATE
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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Athenaeum (Das Deutsche Haus), is a U-shaped building lying at the southeast corner of the intersection of Michigan and New Jersey streets, with the base of the U at the north. A short east wing, lying on a north-south axis, exposes the inner, or east, side of the longer west wing, with its enclosed winter garden and glassed-in second-story loggias, and connects it to the outdoor or summer beer garden, lying outside the inner wall of that wing, and beyond the extension of the short east wing.

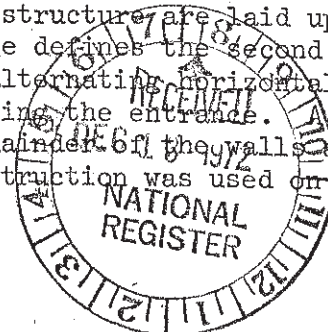
The overall dimensions are 190' x 180'. The facade or north elevation, shows both of the two architectural building phases of the structure: (1) the older or German Romanesque (1893-1894), gable-roofed section, now the east-reaching wing of the main, hipped-roof section of the structure (1897-1898), representing the Renaissance phase of its architecture.

The German Romanesque portion of the structure has two different towers, and an elaborate gable end rises above the roof line in two places. The Renaissance portion has an elaborate facade rising into a baroque pediment above the cornice. The building is two stories high with an attic and a full basement. The foundations of the building are rockfaced stone, laid up on an ashlar coursing with a beveled limestone cap defining the first floor on the north facade and the west elevation. Stone foundations carry around a tower on the northeast corner of the old building. However, the stone work steps down at the tower and the beveled cap is terminated. Other exterior foundation walls of stone are terminated at the finish grade line.

The face of the great west or Renaissance wing is filled with arched and stained-glass windows, bulls-eye windows, straight transomed windows, and has one elaborate, bulls-eye pedimented stained glass window marked by a stone balcony. The main entrance to the structure is in the narrower end of the west wing, on the north facade, where, combined with the face of the older or German Romanesque east wing, there are presented thirteen irregular bays which provide a full view of both the major building phases of this structure. On the back of the west wing, at its inner, eastern, or courtyard face, are even more multiple bays, represented by the glass walls of the double loggia at the second floor and balcony level of the auditorium, and the later glass enclosed arcaded arches of the first floor at ground level.

The walls of the German Romanesque portion of the structure are laid up in dark red brick in common bond. A stone belt course defines the second floor line. The walls of the Renaissance portion have alternating horizontal bands of stone with red brick in common bond flanking the entrance. A projecting cornice defines the second floor. The remainder of the walls are of red brick in common bond. Similar masonry construction was used on the west and south elevations.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

The Athenaeum

.7 Physical Appearance, (Continuation Sheet) page 2

STATE		HABS No. IND-63	
INDIANA			
COUNTY			
Marion			
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	
		FEB 21 1978	

(Number all entries)

From the outdoor beer garden, or summer garden as it was originally called, is to be seen the east or inner wall of the southeast part of the west wing. Here the first story has 6 square brick piers which define five open bays on the east and one bay on the north. This once open loggia, extending not quite the length of the wing, was later enclosed with wooden frames and fixed glazed panels of several sizes set within its original series of flat wooden arches. Above each column is a ribboned wreath carved in wood, with a shield on the wreath over the corner column. The second floor is defined by a wooden entablature. Square wooden columns with a carved geometric design on wooden bases define the bay system at the second floor, corresponding to the bay system below. Each bay is divided into four units, and each unit has a wooden, double hung window defined at its base by turned balusters and a continuous sill. The window jambs are defined by turned wooden colonnettes on high brackets which align with the balusters under the windows. A wooden entablature defines an apparent "third story" at the level of the interior balcony of the concert hall, ballroom, or auditorium. Here the treatments are similar, except that the square wooden columns have a different applied design. They do have bases, but they have pseudo-Ionic caps instead of the stylized Doric caps of the second story. Instead of colonnettes to define the window jambs, plain rectangular wooden mullions are used. The balustrade system below the windows is similar to the one at the second floor demarcation, however the sills are not continuous, as in the second floor demarcation, but are set back of the face of the mullions and columns. A continuous horizontal member defines the heads of the windows, and bears on the Ionic caps. Above this member is a series of punched openings, glazed, in wooden frames. It is not only an excellent solution to a problem of obtaining light and air in an interior enclosed space, but it beautifully provides a basement beer garden, or winter garden, to balance the summer beer garden out of doors. It is one of the most interesting manifestations of late 19th century wooden construction in Indianapolis.

The west wing of the U-shaped structure has a hipped roof with the ridge running north to south. The short east wing is gabled. The roof joining the two wings is gabled at the west and hipped at the east. The ridge is parallel to the north elevation or facade, and has two projecting gables. The roof of the west wing and that of the older portion of the east extension of the north facade are punctuated with several small hooded copper-domed dormers with dwarf spires and diamond paned windows in the central portion, and smaller "eyebrow" louvres nearer the ridgeline. A small bank of half-windows or skylights appear on each side near the south end of the roof, and copper covered cupolas with dwarf spires occur at each end. Chimneys of red brick are barely visible. Some have been shortened from their original outline. Three stone brick towers are at the northeast corner of the building, circular in form and capped with a conical roof of slate. A second brick tower, octagonal in form, appears on the north elevation, and is capped with a stilted polyfoil-sided roof with an agre(or gently curving mansard) silhouette--a double-pitched roof with a small spire.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

The Athenaeum

.7 Physical Appearance, page 3  
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	HABS No. IND-68	
COUNTY	INDIANA	
	Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		FEB 21 1970

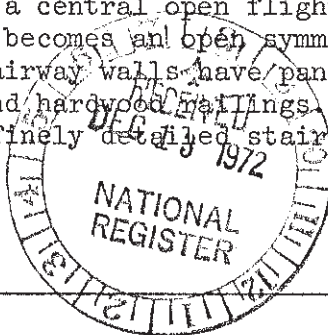
(Number all entries)

The main doorway in the Renaissance portion of the north facade is a semi-circular stone arch. The faces of the alternating stone voussoirs are projected. Stone bases with banded stone engaged columns with Doric caps flank the arched opening. The column treatment is reminiscent of the De L'Orme French order. Four wooden doors with glazed panels and a rectangular glazed transom are set in the opening. Thus there is a lunette of masonry above the transom. The doors are defined as pairs by a high wooden pedestal and a small wooden turned column with an Ionic cap on the centerline of the opening. A second doorway on the east extension or 1894 portion of the north facade is defined by a semi-circular limestone arch set on brick piers behind a one-story projecting porch over an entrance stairs of eight risers. Two free-standing Roman Doric columns on high bases and spanned by a stone lintel and flat deck define the stairway. Stone balusters and stone railings link the column bases with the north wall. The pair of wooden doors each with a glazed light over 4 wooden panels and a rectangular glazed transom is set about 3' back of the arch opening.

Most of the major windows are original double hung wooden units, and are in a variety of shapes and sizes. The majority of the windows on the facade, north elevation, first story, are double hung units with glazed transoms that have segmental brick arches. Many of the windows at the second story are defined by semi-circular brick arch openings and have a fixed light with flanking double hung units. The transom bar has three lights, the side transom lights are fixed and the center unit has a projecting awning unit. Much of the glazing in the west wing is leaded glass set in rectangular double hung sash. A variety of stained glass patterns and colors are used in the north and west elevations.

The variety and intricacy of the exterior of the Athenaeum is matched by the surprising complexities of the interior. Floors of hardwood or mosaic tile, wood paneled and plastered walls, stamped metal ceilings can still be experienced in several spaces left uncovered by acoustical tile or other improvements. Some of the original woodwork has been painted or removed, as has some of the framed openwork and ornamental latticework, many of the original iron radiators and all of the gas light fixtures. The plumbing, of course, is modern. The first and second floor of the east wing has been used by Indiana University until the summer of 1970.

The main stairway of the west wing of the building is a symmetrically divided flight at the vestibule or ground level, and is of wooden construction. At the first floor level a central open flight of wooden stairs leads to a landing where the stairway becomes an open symmetrically divided flight of wooden construction. The stairway walls have paneled wainscots, square newel posts, turned balusters and hardwood railings. The stringers are plain. It is an extremely elegant and finely detailed stairway.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

The Athenaeum

.7 Physical Appearance, page 4 (Continuation Sheet)

STATE	HABS No. IND-63	
	INDIANA	
COUNTY	Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	FEB 21 1972	

(Number all entries)

The second stairway on the north elevation is an enclosed two-flight wooden unit. The outside entrance is at the landing, thus it is one flight down to the basement and one flight up to the first floor. The stairway has a purposefully designed wide grooved wallstring for bicycles to be wheeled both up or down beside the person descending or ascending the stairs. A third enclosed wooden single-flight stairway gives access from the north side of the building up to the first floor corridor adjacent to the gymnasium. There are two additional enclosed double flight wooden stairways in the building.

The basement used to have a four-lane bowling alley and a kneipe or beer saloon that was L-shaped with a storage area at the south end and a series of toilets and alcoves along the north side of the building. The bowling alleys have been removed and the space is now part of the large dining room and lounge area obtained by enclosing with the glass the first floor arcade open over the basement. The base of the U-shaped structure, at the Michigan Street or north facade, has a basement corridor running east-west, with a series of small offices east of the alcove. The basement of the east wing has a short east-west corridor which is a continuation of the corridor of the west wing, with a small dining room and locker room at the north, or base, of the U, and a large dressing room and dining room in the east wing. The dining room originally functioned as a second bowling alley.

The first floor in the west wing has a small auditorium on the south, a double loaded central corridor, north-south axis, with a series of parlors and toilets on either side. The corridor opens into a large foyer and stairway. Central block or base of the U has a central double loaded corridor with a series of dining rooms on both sides of the east-west corridor. East wing has a large gymnasium south of the corridor and a series of small rooms on the north.

The second floor of the west wing is a raised stage with dressing rooms along the south wall. The ballroom and concert hall, two stories in height with a balcony and a loggia to the east, is located over the ground floor arcade, now glazed to provide a third loggia to enclose a dining area. A large foyer is at the north end of the hall. The central wing has a double-loaded east-west corridor with a series of meeting rooms north and south of the corridor. This used to be a large dining room.

There is a balcony opening into the gymnasium from the east wing, an east-west corridor connecting to the central one, and a series of offices on the north. The offices used to function as an assembly room and library.

In the vestibule of the main entrance is a fine wooden ticket booth, polyfoil in plan, seven sided, with leaded stained glass ticket windows. Numerous additional elements of hardwood trim are of considerable interest.

In the garden a small but well sealed band stand of wood and brick construction is located at the southeast corner of the garden area, and opens diagonally onto the outdoor beer garden behind which rises the three stage, glass-enclosed loggia.

# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1893-1898

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education        | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering      | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Physical fitness. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry         | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military         |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music |   |   |

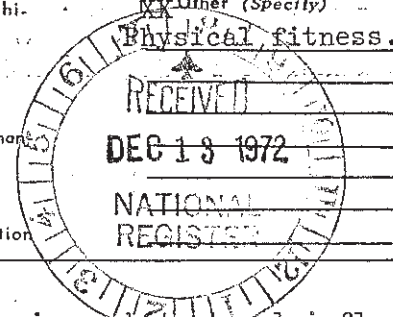
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Athenaeum is an excellent example of Germanic architectural influence in the midwest during the latter part of the nineteenth century. It is also a monument to the organization of Americans of German descent in the United States who dedicated themselves to cultural and physical development in their new home.

In 1918 the name of the Turnverein was changed from Das Deutsche Haus to The Athenaeum, and the stone plaque above the large entrance doors on the Michigan Street side were relettered. In 1851 the German community in the city founded the Indianapolis Turngemeinde (Gymnastic Community) and later took the name of Sozialer Turnverein (Social Gymnastic Club). The structure as it now stands represents two major architectural building phases, with a few recent and undated minor changes:

- (1) The first, or German Romanesque phase, is represented by the east 125 feet of the present Michigan Street facade, and was built between May 1893 and February 1894. With the influx of German immigrants in the 1880s and 1890s the decision was made to enlarge the building to accommodate not only the growing Turnverein but to provide space for use by other German groups.
- (2) The second or Renaissance phase of the building is represented by the west wing and the remainder of the building, all added between the summers of 1897 and 1898. The new addition includes an open-air beer garden just at the southeast corner of the site.
- (3) At a later, unknown, date, the glass enclosures of the second and third level loggias was extended down through their supporting columns on the stone wall at the ground level, behind which had been a sunken bowling alley, adjacent to the indoor beer saloon or student club. With the extension of the glass enclosed area to this part of the building the bowling alley became an extension of the dining and lounging facilities. The outdoor beer garden was rearranged to allow a good sized dance floor in its center, and flower boxes and light fixtures on low pedestals separated the dance floor from the tables.

The Indianapolis firm of Vonnegut and Bohn was responsible for both phases of the structure, with the aid of 20 local contractors from Indianapolis.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stempfel, Theodor, Funfzig Jahre unermudlichen Deutschen Strebens in Indianapolis, Indianapolis, 1898.  
Fest Zeitung zur Feier Der Einweihung des Deutschen Hauses, Tribune Publishing Co., 22 Feb. 1894.  
 "Deutsche Haus Passes," Indianapolis Star, 23 Feb. 1918.  
 Indianapolis News, 23 Feb. 1918. Photograph of the Athenaeum.  
 "Indianapolis Turnverein Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, 1851-1926," Nov. 12 & 13, 1926. Pamphlet.  
 "Athenaeum Turners," 1851-1951. Pamphlet.

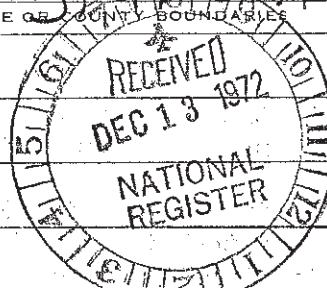
# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 46' 24"	86 ° 9' 01"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: just the bldg approx 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: David R. Hermansen, Supervisor		
ORGANIZATION Historic American Buildings Survey	DATE August 1970	
STREET AND NUMBER: 224 North College Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	STATE Indiana	CODE IN-18

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☒

Name S. David Dwyer

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 12-6-72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/21/73

ATTEST:  
W. M. Muntz  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 2.16.73

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